



Greenfield Central Junior High

Mr. Dan Jack, Principal
1140 North Franklin Street
Greenfield, IN 46140

Mr. Dave Poncar, Band Director
Mr. Jeremy Basso, Assistant Band Director

Dear Parent,

Entering junior high is an exciting time full of new friends and opportunities for your child. One of the best programs for your child to become involved in at Greenfield Central Junior High is the band program.

Playing an instrument in band teaches children to be creative and to work “hands on” toward a goal. Participation in band gives children a sense of belonging and teaches them to work together. Studies show learning to play a musical instrument reinforces skills taught in academic classes. Often children make friends in band that last for years.

Children who have played an instrument before junior high often find learning to play a band instrument a very successful experience, however prior instruction in music is not a requirement to join the seventh grade band. Reasonable rentals are available through Paige’s Music Store and the school can provide several of the larger, more expensive instruments. No student is left out of the band program due to the inability to afford an instrument.

The beginning of seventh grade is the only opportunity to begin band. There are many qualified students who miss the opportunity to play a band instrument. Often the fear of not succeeding at a new experience or a friend’s decision about their choice effects a child’s decision about joining band. It is important to remember that students never have an experience with a band instrument until the seventh grade and everyone is a beginner! Please talk with your child about joining the band. This is an important decision!

Students who will be in band next year will need to “try-on” instruments at their current school, during the day on Monday, May 21st (GIS in the morning/MIS in afternoon). Before that day, students will receive a permission form that will allow them out of their 6th grade classroom for the “try-on” session. This permission slip must be turned in to their classroom teacher in order for the student to be allowed out of class. Please note that this “try-on” session is not meant to eliminate a student from participation in band. “Try-on” sessions are merely an aptitude test, a chance for students to “test drive” an instrument and determine which instrument(s) might be the best fit.

There will be a very important meeting for parents on Wednesday, May 23rd at 7:00pm in the GCJHS Cafeteria. This will be a fairly short but very important meeting to explain the GCJHS Band program and officially enroll your child in next year’s 7th grade band! Representatives from Paige’s Music will be on hand at this meeting to assist you with questions and with information on how to acquire or repair an instrument.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of this process, please email Mr. Poncar or Mr. Basso at GCJHS: dponcar@gcsc.k12.in.us or jbasso@gcsc.k12.in.us (or call 477-4616 ext. 43505).

We hope that band will be a special part of your child’s experience at Greenfield Central Junior High.

Sincerely,

Dave Poncar	Jeremy Basso
Band Director	Asst. Band Director